Start of Edith Lange Collection

AR 11453

Sys #: 000200149

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400
Fax: (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org
URL: http://www.lbi.org

AR 11453 1/1 Edith Lange. Collection, 2003

AHC

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 15 W 16TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10011, TEL (212) 744 6400

1/6/2004

Contents of the Edith Lange - Collection

1) AHC questionnaire 1 &2
2) six paintings (copies) by Ms. Lange, done before 1937 while at Docktor Schwarzwaldschule in the first district of Vienna
3) 16 sketches (copies) by Ms. Lange, done either in Vienna or in Mozou Maggarovar, Hungary. The sketches show different kinds of fashion, popular in the early 1930ies
4) 2 recent photographs portraying Ms. Lange. One shows her dressed up in traditional japanese clothing, the photo taken in Japan, october 2003, the second picture was taken december 4th, 2003, at the Jewish Center La Jolla, CA, performing Ballroom dancing

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Name: EDITH (First Name) / (Middle Name) LANGE (Last Name)

[redacted]

Occupation in US: SELF EMPL. (FURNITURE) *(before retirement)*

Date of Birth: FEB. (Month) 19 (Day) 1923 (Year) **Place of Birth:** VIENNA (City), AUSTRIA (Country)

Prewar Address: WIEN VII., KIRCHENGASSE 1 TÜR 5 (Street) (District, if in Vienna) VIENNA (City), AUSTRIA (Country)

Prewar Name: EDITH SONNENSCHEIN **Maiden Name:** EDITH SONNENSCHEIN

1. Education/Occupation(s) *(please if possible, indicate institutions and year when entered/left)*

VOLKSSCHULE VII., ZOLLERGASSE
DR. SCHWARZ WALDSCHULE I. FRAUENOBERSCHULE TIL 4TH CLASS
FROM 1937 TIL AUSWANDERUNG: LEHRMÄDCHEN FÜR MIEDERMACHEN
AT FRAU ALICE SCHALLINGER – MARIAHILFERSTR. VI. THE "DURCHHAUS"

2. Were you affiliated with any kind of organization (Youth, Zionist, Political, etc.)? If so, did you have any specific function?

3. Were you arrested and/or interned? *(please indicate where and when)*

4. What was your route of emigration? *(please indicate places and dates of stay)*

TRAIN - WESTBAHNHOF END OF FEB. 1939 VIA SWITZERLAND, TO PARIS OVER NIGHT, EMBARKED ON THE "QUEEN MARY" IN CHERBURG, FRANCE, ARRIVED IN N.Y. MARCH 4TH 1939!

5. May we contact you again with a more detailed follow-up questionnaire? *(please circle)* **Yes / No**

6. Do you have any documents, such as photographs, letters, diaries, all kinds of manuscripts, etc., that would be appropriate for the archives of the LBI? **Yes / No**

If necessary please use additional sheets. Thank you!

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We kindly ask you to answer the following questions in as much detail as possible, either in English or in German. If you need more space, please feel free to use additional sheets. If you don't know the answer to certain questions or don't want to answer for any reason, just go on to the next question.

NAME: EDITH LANGE **DATE:** DEC. 10th 200_

My Maiden name: SONNENSCHEIN. I am also known now as EDY LANGE!

1. BEFORE MARCH 1938 EDITH SONNENSCHEIN

1.1 Please describe your parental home.
(Did you live in an apartment or in a house? How many people lived there with you? Did you have servants? What language(s) were spoken in the household?)

Lived in an Apartment. Father, Stepmother and Brother. One maid lived with us. Only Highgerman was spoken.

1.2 Please tell us about your neighborhood (District in Vienna or area).
(What ethnic groups lived there? Religious life? Relationships between Jews and non-Jews? Relationships with neighbors?)

I lived in VII., district. Address: Kirchengasse 1 Tür 5. It was the Mezzanine. The same address is today also Wien VII., Maria Hilferstraße 50. The Building was called "the ASCHER-HOUSE". Two Brothers had a Modenhaus on the Streetfloor - Their daughter Kitty died last year - she lived there even after she was married to an American.

In school, even First Grade (Zollergasse) I was 6 years + experienced diff religious relationship with another child.

1.3 What religious tradition existed in your family?
(Did you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe holidays, etc.?)

We did not keep Kosher, Passover was only one Seder night! Also my mother died when I was One year old and I remember Papa took me once to Temple in Ottaburg where he grew up.

1.4 Please, tell us about your friends and acquaintances ?
(Were they mostly Jewish or non-Jewish? Did you have any close non-Jewish friends?)

Mostly jewish friends.
But in grade school 1 – to 4th grade I had a few close non-jewish friends.

1.5 Were you affiliated with any political, social or religious organization?
(Youth Organizations, Zionist Organizations, Political Parties, other organizations)
If so, did you have any specific function?

1.6 Did you or your family encounter any anti-Semitism in Austria before March 1938?
(If so, please give details.)

In 1933 when first Busservice was installed (Schwarzenbergplatz) to Budapest. The ticket officer was insulting my father as JEW etc – I was 10, I will never forget – I thought he would shoot with a gun.

1.7 What was your/ your family's reaction to Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933 and to Nazi activity in Austria in the early thirties? Did you/ they feel threatened by these events?

Yes, because my father owned the PAPIERHANDLUNG "Zum Heidenschuss" and served to all the many Ambassies around. (Fry und – Herrengasse – Strauchgasse

The Same night Hitler marched into Austria our store was totaly destroyed! No more income!

2. FROM MARCH 1938 TO EMIGRATION - FROM EUROPE TO AMERICA

2.1 How was your time spent during and after the "Anschluss"? What was the impact of the "Anschluss" on you personally?
(Were you expelled from school/university? Did you or somebody in your family lose your/ their jobs? Were your apartments/houses looted? Were you (or members of your family) persecuted? Were you/ they forced to scrub the streets?)

Yes, Schwarzwald Schule I, was taken over but before already I left because I was told no sense to go on they would not let me into Univers I was already an artist. I took a job as a Lehrmädel for Niedermachen. Shortly after Spring 1938 Mrs. Schallinger (the owner) was a SCHOOL for Jewish Women in UMSCHULUNG and I became a Teacher (had a one year experience and was 15 years old! We all know THEODORE BIKEL - his Mom was MY Student — can you believe this? She made her money in Israel. After Crystal Night she too had to give up!

2.2 How did non-Jewish friends, colleagues, schoolmates, neighbors, etc. behave toward you and your family?

I did not see any one as I had to work for Mrs. Schallinger from 7:00 AM and Sometimes to 9:00 PM also Saturday.
I had a traumatic experience the day after Christal Night!

2.3 Could you please decribe your recollections of November 9th, 1938, the so-called „Reichs-Kristallnacht" (in case you still were in Austria at that time)

I was delivering a corset in the VI., district I come up the Steps (Babenberger Straße) and thousands of people screaming "Ein Volk Ein Reich, Ein Führer" - I had no idea "they" were Celebrating and was caught by suprise as a Newswhat Photographer pointed to me (he was perched up on a tree) and cir dergpe ign + lifted my right hand and so to blend in. It was awful.

2.4 Were you or any members of your family arrested? Sent to a camp?
(If so, please give details.)

Not my father —
my brother Kurt went illegal
across the Belgian Border.
(Like to tell you more!)

2.5 Can you recall the process of obtaining papers necessary for emigration?
(Did you try to obtain visas for other countries as well? Were you supported by any relief organization, by relatives or friends?)

We stood in line at the Rothschild Palast 3 days + nights.
An SS guy shoved my father down the marble steps where we finally were upstairs for obtaining our passport,

2.6 What happened to your (or your family's) apartments, houses, businesses and other property?

Most of the furniture was stolen
The Apartment was rented.
The Store demolished

The Miedermachen store on Mariahilferstr. across from Herzmansky was also taken away.

2.7 When did you leave Austria? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

February 28th 1939
via France
via Cherbourg "Queen Mary"

2.8 If you did not emigrate directly to the U.S, where did you go first?
(How long did you stay there? Can you give a brief description of your experiences? Was there an immedate reason - apart from the general threat - for your emigration?)

We had an Atlantic Crossing
of 4 days!
arrived in NYC March 4th 1939

3. THE UNITED STATES

3.1 When did you arrive in the U.S.? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

March 4th 1939 N.Y. City

3.2 Did members of your family emigrate to countries other than the U.S.?
(If so, where? Where do they live today? Are you still in contact with them?)

Cousin went to England - Kindertransport
he is my age and lives in South Africa
today. Yes we E-Mail !!
Another cousin went to Palestine, one went to Buenos Aires
Several others died in Concentration Camps

3.3 Did you serve in the U.S. Armed Forces or in any other allied army?
(If so, when did you join? What division? What was your area of operation?
When were you discharged?)

When I came to the USA and the war
started in Fall I was working at night
for the USO and also made Leather-
Jackets for the Flightcrew, plus wrapping
Bandages.

3.4 Please list places and dates of residence in the U.S.
(City, State; in bigger cities, neighborhood)

We went directly to Minneapolis, Minnesota
134 E - 18th Street -
I was married to Ensign Samuel Marsh in Florida 1943.
He died in Service Flying in the Southwest Pacific in Dec 1944,
I lived in Florida, Hollywood by the Sea Florida and
mainly in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.
Since I am a Widow 1996 I live in La Jolla, CA.

3.5 Please describe your occupational situation after your arrival in the U.S.

I worked in a garment (underwear) factory
for $10,- a week. It was piecework and I was
closely watched. (Also the coworkers were very
antisemitic to my face directly – it was worse
than in Vienna) I lived with a family, had a room and
had to walk to and from as I had not enough money
for Streetcar token!

3.6 Did you belong to any emigrant/immigrant-related organization or cultural association? (e.g. Austrian American Federation, Austrian Forum, etc.? If so, since when?)

I joined at age 17 the youth group
from the Adath Jeshurin Temple in
Minneapolis - that time on Dupont
Ave. South.

3.7 Do you still speak German in the USA? If so, with whom and when? How often?

Yes, but just for the fun of it.
In Senior circles you do meet other German - or Austrian folks.

3.8 Would you call yourself religious? To what degree? What is your affiliation? Did it change?
(Do you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe the holidays,...?)

I am a member of the Reform Temple.
The Reform Movement gave me my affidavid — they saved my life — I will always pay my membership. I do not go to regular Services

3.9 Were your friends and acquaintances mostly German-speaking or non-German-speaking? Mainly Jewish or not?

My friends are 95 % American!
Half are jewish —
You see I do volunteer work at the San Diego Navy Base in the Medical Center for the American Red Cross.

3.10 Of what country (countries) are you a citizen? When was each citizenship granted?

one citizenship: USA

3.11 Have you ever visited Austria after the war? If so, how often?
(What did you do there? Can you recall some of your impressions during these visits? Have you ever thought of going back permanently?)

Yes, I have been back 5 times.
The main reason is: The Zentralfriedhof does not offer perpetular care and I find it my duty to attend to it. I compare my lifestyle in the USA and am so happy to come home here to this Country. Until last year I had 5 SCHOOL friends left — they live in Vienna and are half jewish by birth.

4. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

4.1 Have you ever been interviewed by any other organization?
(If yes, please indicate when and by which organization?)

Yes, in Miami, Florida.

4.2 Have you ever been mentioned in any historical works?
(Holocaust-related literature, Documentary films, Exhibitions etc.)

no,
however I saw Hitler march into Vienna from our window on Mariahilferstr. March 12th (or 11th) P.M and I saw boys age 16 already in Hitler Youth uniforms streaming out from their home all at the same time.

5. FAMILY MEMBERS

5.1 Spouse (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

My husband ROLF LANGE was from Berlin. Remember I mentioned to you that Rabbi Leo Baeck officiated at Rolf's Bar Mitz in Berlin. Rolf was born 1912 and passed away in Hollywood, Florida July 5th 1996

5.2 Mother (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

My mother was Franzi Kohn. She was a widow in WW I her husband was Lothar Zilz. She married Josef Sonnenschein She died in April 1924.

5.3 Father (Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

JOSEF SONNENSCHEIN Vienna May 25th 1865 Died in Minneapolis, Minnesota April 1957

5.4 Siblings (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

My brother is or was!
Yes, this is a strange statement.
He was born: KURT LOTHAR SONNENSCHEIN
Vienna, March 12th, 1921

Please call me about this
Subject - it is too sad to write about.
(858) 456-2016
at 7:00AM Pacific time you can reach me. I will be gone Dec. 17th to Jan 6th!!

5.5 Children (Name, Maiden Name, Address [City, State, Country], Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

I raised 2 children of Rolf's
Steve was born in Hadera, Palestine in 1938 (now Israel) and Rosie's mom died when she was born Nov 21 1942 in Minneapolis, a Teacher in San Diego
I gave birth to Frank Lange in Minneapolis (Engineer)
" " " Linda Sue (Teacher)
" " " Esther (Retail Furniture)

5.6 Grandparents (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth, place/date of death, Occupation[s])

Maternal Grandmother Kohn, Kathi (née Lind)
" Grandfather Ottakring - Tailor
in Vienna Paternal Grandfather - Wine Sales

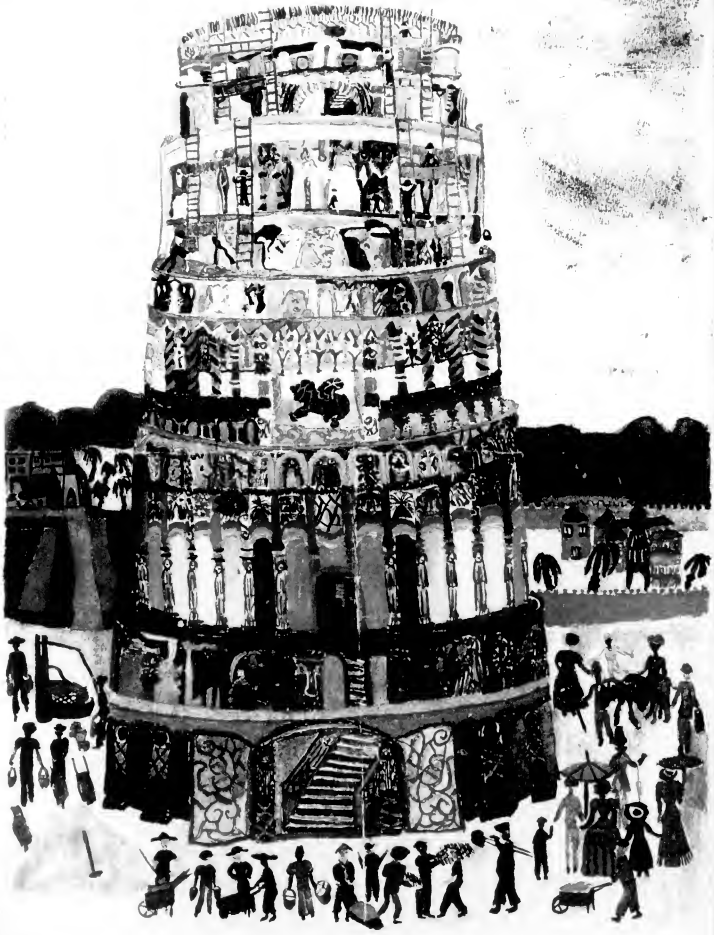
The Austrian Heritage Collection is always looking for people to interview.

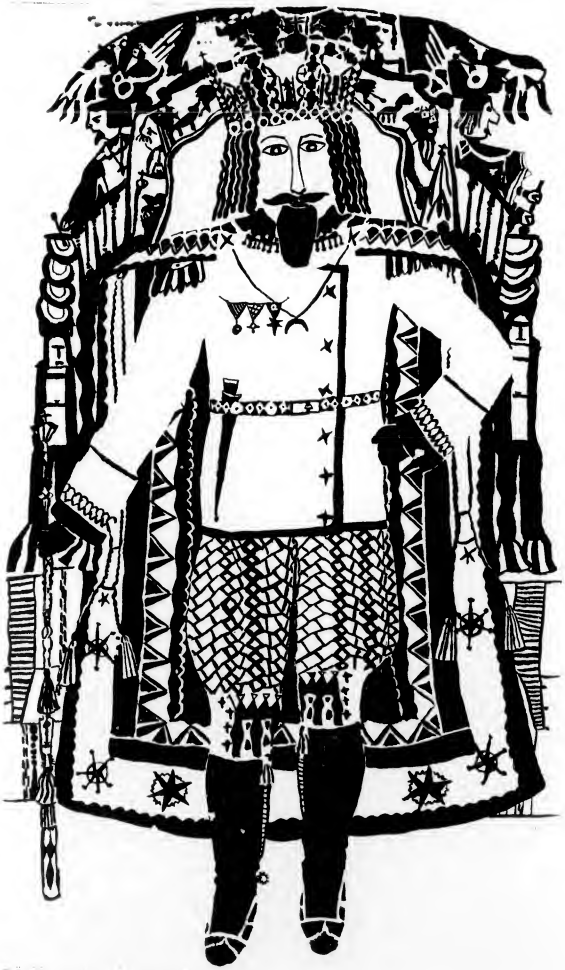
If you know any Austrian-Jewish immigrants in the US who might be interested in participating in this project, please either ask them to contact us or write their addresses below.

Thank you very much for participating in this project.

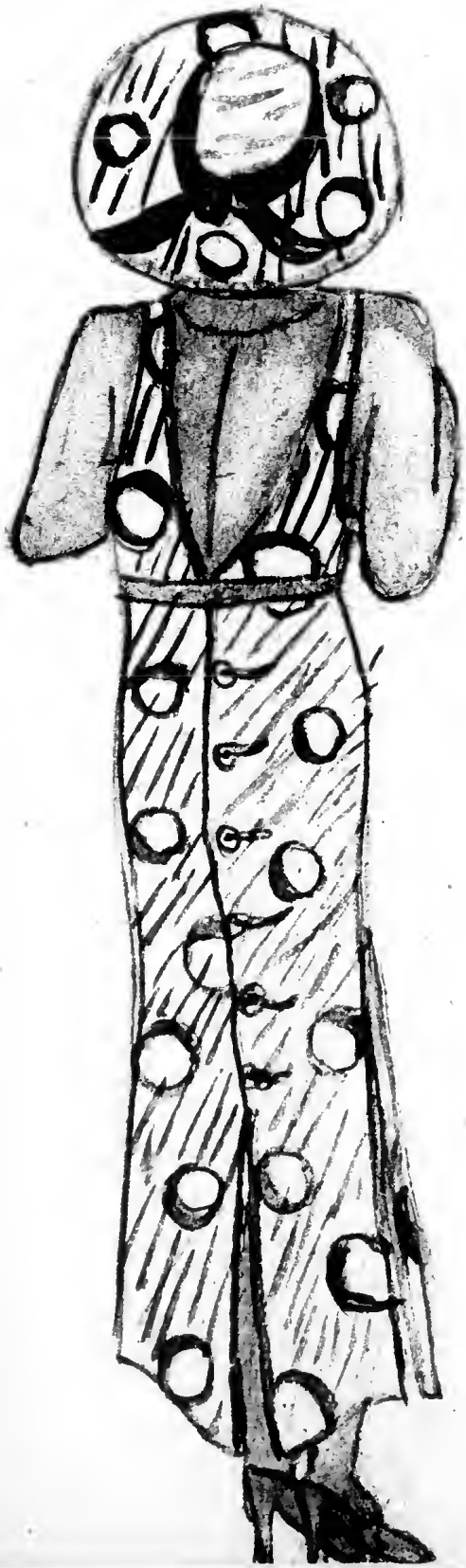
EDITH SONNENSCHEIN IV. F.O.S

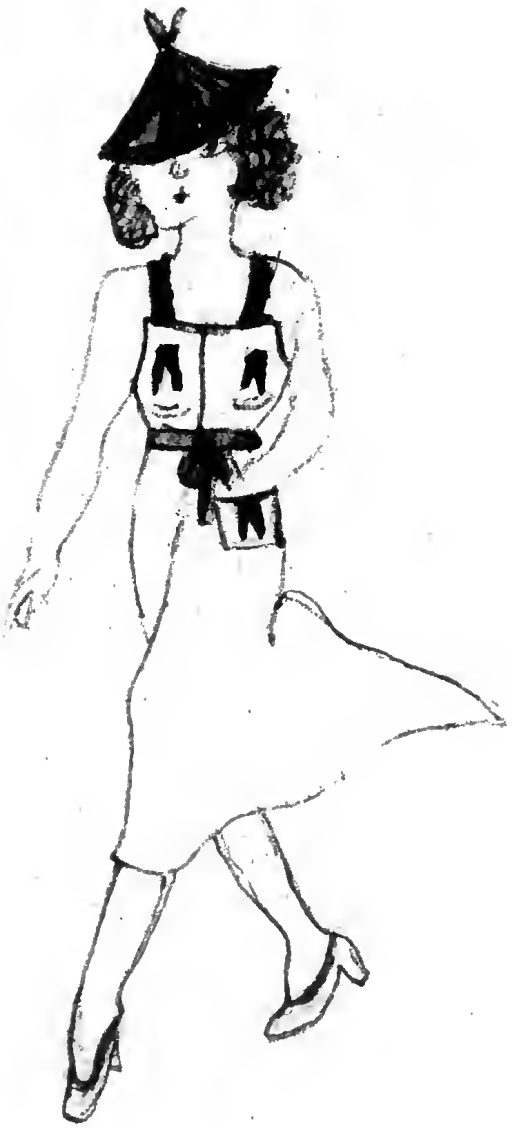
KAUFT ÖSTERREICHISCHE HOLZWAREN





EDITH SUNNEY HEIN





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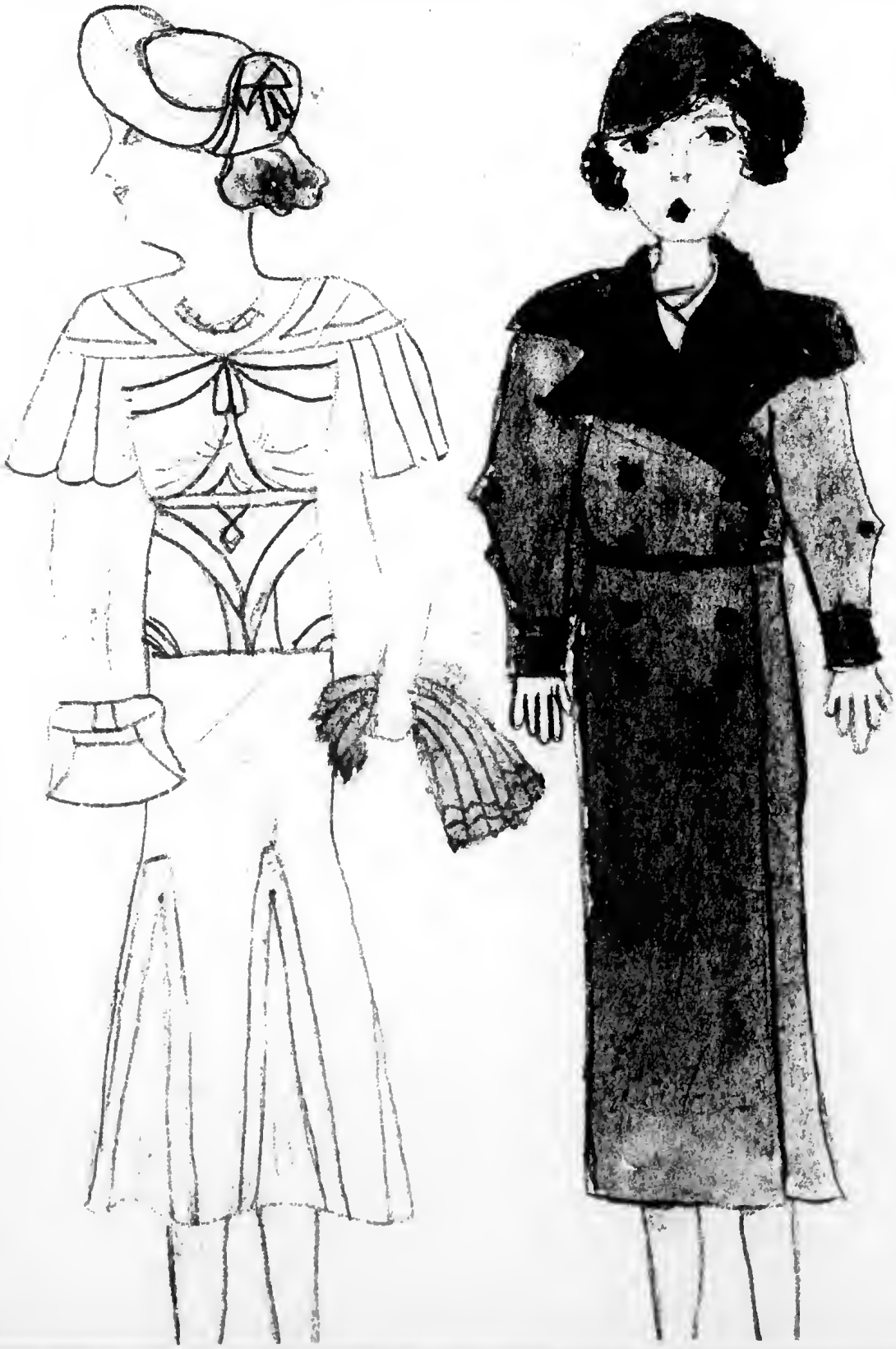
Herbst 1934